



# Superfund and You

## Cabinet View Country Club

### **Responding to Reports of Vermiculite**

Earlier this year, in response to a recent report of vermiculite found below the sod in a tee box, EPA conducted several sampling events at the Cabinet View Country Club (the Libby golf course) in Libby, Montana. Previously, EPA had received anecdotal reports that vermiculite was used under some of the greens, but no visible vermiculite had been identified during several EPA inspections of surface soils around the golf course.

EPA sampled the golf course's tee boxes, greens, fairways, and sand from the stockpile used for the course's bunkers. The samples results generally indicated that "trace" level contamination (<0.2%) was present in surface soils of the greens and tee boxes, but found no contamination in the sand stockpile or fairways. All sample results were <1%, which is EPA's current numerical trigger for emergency response cleanup of soil at residential and commercial properties in Libby. It is important to note that in Libby, EPA does not consider 1% a "safe" level of asbestos in soils, but it is currently being used to help determine which residential and commercial areas are the highest priorities for cleanup.

### **Identifying the Risk**

EPA's primary concerns lie with groundskeepers at the golf course that would frequently mow the grass or conduct aeration or other aggressive grounds maintenance activities. In order to understand the potential impacts to golf course users and as part of EPA's Remedial Investigation activities for this summer, personal air samples were collected from

groundskeepers while they conducted activities such as aerating, sweeping and sanding. Some of these sample results indicated asbestos concentrations in the air during aggressive grounds keeping activities. However, these concentrations are below a level of concern in soil and air that is currently being addressed in Libby through the Emergency Response authority under Superfund.

### **Long-Term Cleanup Strategy**

EPA is working toward publishing a Proposed Plan that includes our long-term strategy for cleanup. Once the final cleanup remedy for the Libby site has been selected the issues at the Cabinet View Country Club will be addressed.

Until that time, while we have verified the presence of Libby asbestos in the tee boxes and greens of the golf course, EPA does not feel the levels present warrant immediate response or other restrictive actions. Users of the golf course should be aware of the presence of contamination, and we will work with the Cabinet View Country Club to ensure this occurs.

### **Questions?**

For more information, you can stop by or call the EPA Information Center, at 501 Mineral Avenue (406-293-6194). The Information Center is a great resource if you have questions or would like to review information about the site.